

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

22. (new) A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms.

23. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof and optionally other metals after having been loaded with palladium by ion exchange.

24. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite comprises a zeolite of the class of FAU, MOR, BEA, EMT, CON, BOG or ITQ-7.

25. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.02 to 2% by weight of palladium.

26. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by ion exchange or incipient wetness techniques.

27. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

28. (new) Method according to Claim 26, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

29. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is further loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system.

30. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the gas comprises oxygen, water or a combination thereof.

31. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the gas comprises carbon monoxide.

32. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the reaction temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.

33. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the NO_x /methane ratio is between 0.02 and 2.

34. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of N_2O .

35. (new) Method according to Claim 34, wherein the additional catalyst for the removal of N_2O is an iron-containing zeolite, a promoted iron-containing zeolite or a combination thereof.

36. (new) Method according to Claim 22, wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of methane.

37. (new) A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by physically mixing the zeolite with salts or oxides of said metals.

38. (new) Method according to Claim 37, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.01 to 50% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

39. (new) Method according to Claim 37, wherein the zeolite is further loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system.

40. (new) Method according to Claim 37, wherein the gas comprises oxygen, water or a combination thereof.

41. (new) Method according to Claim 37, wherein the gas comprises carbon monoxide.

42. (new) Method according to Claim 37, wherein the reaction temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.

43. (new) Method according to Claim 37, wherein the NO_x/methane ratio is between 0.02 and 2.

44. (new) Method according to Claim 37, wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of N₂O.

45. (new) Method according to Claim 44, wherein the additional catalyst for the removal of N₂O is an iron-containing

zeolite, a promoted iron-containing zeolite or a combination thereof.

46. (new) Method according to Claim 37, wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of methane.

47. (new) A catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the palladium in the zeolite is wholly or partially coordinated as ion by the zeolite.

48. (new) Catalyst according to Claim 47, characterized by an infra-red sensitive zeolite lattice vibration visible at about 950 cm^{-1} .

49. (new) Catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite comprises a zeolite of the class of FAU, MOR, BEA, EMT, CON, BOG or ITQ-7.

50. (new) Catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.02 to 2% by weight of palladium.

51. (new) Catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

52. (new) Catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite is further loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system.

53. (new) Method for the preparation of a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof and optionally other metals after having been loaded with palladium by ion exchange.

54. (new) Method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite comprises a zeolite of the class of FAU, MOR, BEA, EMT, CON, BOG or ITQ-7.

55. (new) Method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.02 to 2% by weight of palladium.

56. (new) Method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by ion exchange or incipient wetness techniques.

57. (new) Method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

58. (new) Method according to Claim 56, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

59. (new) Method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite, after having been loaded with palladium by ion exchange, the zeolite is loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system, before, at the same time or after the introduction of scandium, yttrium or a lanthanide or a combination thereof.